

- 7. (a) No; they do not consider it necessary.
- (b) Government have no information.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—In the list I find only the *aided* schools working under the half-time system.

Mr. C. Matthai.—There are several Sirkar schools also.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—The majority of them are aided schools. May I know whether there are not a number of Sirkar schools working under the half-time system, and whether at the same time they have only a very small strength?

Mr. C. Matthai.—The half-time system is not introduced for want of strength.

President.—There is no necessary connection between the two, viz., the strength and the half-time system. If you had borne that in mind, this question could not have arisen.

The transfer of Medical Officers.

495. Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state, in reference to the answer to question No. 51 of the legislative session of 1902, what were the considerations that induced the Government to consider that it would be a wholesome rule if medical officers below the rank of a Civil Surgeon are not ordinarily allowed to remain in a place for more than 3 years at a time;

(2) will the Government be pleased to state (a) whether before the passing of the D. P. Dis. No. 248/R/99, dated 28th March 1924, (L. M. D.) the Government have considered the advantages and disadvantages of the periodical transfer of medical officers from the standpoint of (i) the Government, (ii) the medical officers, (iii) the ailing public; if so, what are those advantages and disadvantages;

(b) what are the advantages and disadvantages of such periodical transfers brought to the Diwan's notice by the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer or taken into consideration by Diwan before the passing of the Proceedings referred to in (a);

(c) the reason which induced the Government to exclude Civil Surgeons from the operation of the rule mentioned in question (1)?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(1) The considerations were principally that the advantages and disadvantages of each station in the matter of healthiness, private practice, cost of living, educational facilities and other amenities of life may be shared by all members alike.

(2) (a) and (b). No definite answer can be given to a question of this nature.

(c) There are only two stations for them, and the application of the rule is likely to be detrimental to public service and to the officers.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Are not these considerations referred to in answer (i) confined to the standpoint of the medical officers?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese—It is so.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know why the considerations of the ailing public were not taken into consideration? They would like to have a particular officer.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—This rotation will give effect to that.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—One man may get a good station, another a bad one.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The good and bad we share to all.

President.—This transfer would inconvenience the officers themselves. Some of them will have to be sent to malarial areas and others to healthy places.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Exactly so.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Does not medical treatment depend much upon the mind of the patient?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Well, that is a factor I can admit.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—If it is so, can one medical officer be as good to one patient as another?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Perhaps so. It is not an absolute rule. It is said so ordinarily.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—In (c) it is said it would be detrimental to the officers. May I know how?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—If once in three years these Civil Surgeons of Trichur and Ernakulam are to be transferred, they will hardly get time to settle down.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Does not this argument apply with greater force to men who get lower salaries?

President.—These Medical Officers have to be kept in their respective places unless you find it necessary to transfer them as a punishment.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—They are not disturbed unless I consider it necessary.

President.—You don't give effect to this rule, then?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No, Sir.

President.—Recently I found a general transfer in the Gazette.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It was on other considerations.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—It is a salutary practice to transfer Surgeons. There is a Government Order to that effect. The wording of the order is that medical officers should ordinarily be transferred once in three years.

President.—From your point of view, certain transfers are not desirable in the interests of the Medical Department; how can it be salutary?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It is not salutary to make it an absolute rule. Only when their retention in particular places leads to an unsatisfactory state of affairs, is it a salutary rule.

President.—These circumstances are exceptional, so that the rule should be not to transfer them, but order their transfer for special purposes and special reasons.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes, Sir. I do not agree with the Diwan's Proceedings. I have already brought it to the notice of the Government. Specially for the information of the House I say that in Hospitals, where men have been trained to do some special work, it is quite inadvisable to transfer them once in 3 years. Regard should be had to the excellence of the work carried on in such Hospitals, and so it is not advisable to give effect to this rule absolutely. And so, in places like the Trichur Lunatic Asylum and other places, where men have learned specialised work, it is not a salutary rule at all.

The transfer of Registrars.

496. Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether in the case of District Registrars any rule or understanding or practice exists necessitating periodical transfers;

(b) if so, do the Government think it desirable to keep on the rule, understanding or practice?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) The Member is referred to the answer to part (a) of the question No. 151 of the Vrischigam sitting.

(b) Yes, as far as practicable.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Would it not be a salutary practice to keep Registrars, as far as possible, in the same place in order to prevent offences under the Regulation of Identifications?

President.—This is a matter of opinion. From your standpoint you think it is good, but the Government view is that transfer at the end of three years is desirable. Opinions may differ.